

## Official News

The county board has made its estimate of the amount of money that will be needed for the current expenses of the county during the next year. The estimate is as follows:

Gen. fund including care of poor	\$35,000
County bridges	20,000
County Roads	10,000
Labor Tax	10,000
Soldiers Relief	1,000
Total	\$76,000

The bids for publishing the proceedings of the board were opened. After much amending and reconsidering the contract was awarded to the Humboldt Standard and the Falls City News at one-third of the legal rate, with the provision that they secure the publication of the proceedings in the Falls City Journal without additional cost.

Bids of the various banks for handling the county money were considered and the First National bank of Falls City, the First National bank of Humboldt and Verdon State bank were designated as depositories, upon approval of bonds.

J. A. Cook was reappointed superintendent of the poor farm and G. H. Ruegge was reappointed janitor of the court house.

The board reconsidered its action in the matter of the appointment of deputy assessors and decided to appoint seventeen instead of twelve deputies. Accordingly the following names were added to the list; Jason Timmerman, A. H. Ernst, Aug. Steinbrink, August Porr, and L. C. Wells.

County Judge Wilhite has issued the following marriage licenses:

David Griffiths, Verdon	20
Edna Windle, Falls City	24
Archie Hoagland, Franklin prec	23
Caroline Oberly, Humboldt prec	22
Rudolph Voegle, Arago	22
Bertha Saal, Fargo	19
Kelly James, Barneston	21
Gertrude Zook, Barneston	18

On Wednesday County Judge Wilhite performed at his office, the ceremony which united in marriage Bertha Saal of Fargo and Rudolph Voegle of Arago. Both are well known Richardson county young people and have many friends to congratulate them.

The tax rush at the treasurers office still continues and the force is kept hard at work. At the request of Treasurer Zook the state examiner checked up the office this week and found everything in first class shape.

The action of the board in approving of G. H. Ruegge's janitorial policy to the extent of giving him a reappointment, naturally caused that gentleman's

face to assume a smile that positively refuses to come off.

Elmer Stoughton has been duly installed as deputy in the office of District Clerk Loree.

### CANARY OPERA.

Contests Between Singing Birds Now a Sport in England.

In England, though singing bird contests, especially in the north, are no new thing, the cult of the roller canary is but recent, says the London Telegraph. In 1901 the British Roller Canary club was founded to promote the breeding and exhibition of these birds, and since then this particular "fancy" has flourished greatly. At first the best "rollers" were made in Germany, and from that country great numbers still come, but before long it is probable that British-bred birds will hold their own with the finest from over seas. At the show of the British Roller club, held recently at the King's Arms, in Bishopsgate street Without, a wonderful collection of 90 songsters was benched. Now, judging "rollers" is no joke. Nobody cares what a "roller" looks like. He may be yellow or brown or green or piebald as a patchwork quilt. He may be little or big, fat or thin, and nobody cares a button. He may be able to hold on one note for the time it takes a suburban train to get 10 yards, and even that is nothing to his credit. One unmusical note spoils him. Quality not quantity is the motto of the "roller" critic; a gentle, undulating motion up and down the scale is what he yearns for. The judge's life, like a policeman's, is not a happy one. Mr. A. Rettich spent nearly four hours in picking out the winner of a class of 33. The 33—one would call them prime donne, but they are, of course, of the wrong sex—in one room tuning up together, like an orchestra of flutes, would seem to make all placing impossible. As well one might ask a musician to pick out the best violin from a score playing different tunes at once. But the canary opera is not disconcerting to the expert. Two bad notes come to his ear; the offender is removed, and so it goes on till the class is whittled down to two or three. Then comes the tug of war. It is much like asking some unhappy critic to decide between two famous tenors, save for the happy distinction that with canaries there will be no subsequent bloodshed. The choice was at length made, and the winner found in a bird belonging to Mr. J. N. Dunn, who also took the second prize. A class of much importance was that for the native product, in which Mr. W. Ullmann took the first prize and the silver cup given to the best British bird.

### Heroic Style.

No true novelist allows his hero to patronize an elevator if the building is equipped with a fire escape.—Chicago Daily News.



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Of our Coal will do as much toward heating your home as two scuttles of any other coal. That is because our coal is all coal—it is not slate—it is not dirt—it is pure, clean coal of the very best quality.

Prices here are no more than other places, but coal quality is higher.

## E. A. MAUST & SONS.

PHONE NO. 38.

### SEA OF AZOF.

Is Not Disappearing, But Is Rapidly Silting Up.

One dispatch from Russia says that the Sea of Azof is disappearing, and another that is drying up. This is startling news of a body of water which is the outlet for millions of bushels of Russian export wheat. Fortunately the report is not quite accurate.

The Sea of Azof is not drying up. It is silting up, says the New York Sun. Its chief water receipts are derived from that very dirty river, the Don, which spreads millions of tons of sediment a year over the shallow floor of the sea. This process has been going on for many ages and the alluvium from the Don has been narrowing the basin and raising the bed of the sea.

The ruins of the town of Tanais, founded by the Greeks at the very mouth of the Don, are now six miles inland. The results of the filling-in process are appreciable from century to century, but still it is slow work. Aristotle himself remarked with regard to the extinction of the sea that: "All the inhabitants will perhaps have disappeared before the change is completed."

A more scientific prediction is rendered possible by modern studies. It is found that the mean depth of the whole sea is 32 feet; that the amount of sediment annually emptied into the sea is about 230,000,000 cubic feet, and that at this rate of progress the Sea of Azof will be filled up in about 56,000 years, a period sufficiently remote to mitigate any present anxiety.

The alarming report just circulated is due to a phenomenon that has occurred in the long, narrow arm of the sea known as the Gulf of Taganrog. The waters at Taganrog, the chief wheat port, receded so that for several days the bottom of the gulf was visible for two or three miles. "Vessels are lying high and dry and the greatest confusion prevails in the harbor. High winds hurl clouds of sand shoreward."

This is very uncomfortable for all concerned, but is by no means unprecedented in the Gulf of Taganrog. The mean depth of the gulf is only 10 to 12 feet, and it has diminished by nearly two feet since the first charts were made.

in the time of Peter the Great. Under the influence of strong and persistent winds the level of the water is sometimes raised or lowered as much as 10 or even 16 or 17 feet. When the level is lowered the bottom of parts of the gulf is sometimes exposed to view for several days. This is not a frequent phenomenon, but it occurs now and then. In spite of it Taganrog will continue to be one of the chief southern ports of the empire for a long time to come.

### Senatorial Readers.

Senator Hoar is the only member of either branch of congress who draws on the congressional library extensively for the Greek and Latin poets. He still delves in the riches of the "Iliad" and the "Odyssey" and enjoys reading anew the vivid adventures which Virgil so ably told. The Massachusetts senator is an eager reader of many other books in the big library, but since Representative Elliott, of South Carolina, retired from public life he is about the only reader of books in foreign languages save Senator Elkins, of West Virginia, who occasionally sends for a volume in Spanish.

### Will Never Return.

When Claus Spreckels left the Sandwich islands some ten years ago he said he should not return until Queen Lilioukalani had won her throne back; or, failing that, until grass should be growing in the streets of Honolulu. As there is no prospect of either of these events happening, it is probable that the splendid Spreckels mansion in Honolulu will remain vacant until the owner dies. Half a dozen servants have been in charge of the place for ten years.

### Civilization and Hearing.

It is a curious fact that the higher the civilization of a race the slower the action of the senses. Actual experiments have shown that, whereas the ear of the white man responds to a sound in 147-thousandths of a second, that of a negro responds in 139 thousandths and that of a red Indian in 116-thousandths.

### Selfish Man.

Only a selfish man will allow his life insurance to lapse just before passing in his checks.—Chicago Daily News.